

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-52 are pending in this application. Claims 19-34 and 47-50 are allowed. Claims 1-5, 7-18, 35-46, 51 and 52 are rejected. Claim 6 has been previously canceled. Claims 1-5, 7-18, 35-46, 51 and 52 are canceled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-13 and 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,985,073 (Kimura et al.), Applicants have canceled claims 1-13 and 41-42 without prejudice.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,985,073 (Kimura et al.), Applicants have canceled claims 14-16 without prejudice.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-18, 35-46, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 3,139,375 (Bryand) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,985,073 (Kimura et al.), Applicants have canceled claims 1-18, 35-46, 51 and 52 without prejudice.

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 19-34 and 47-50 are indicated allowed, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 19-34 and 47-50 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

It is further submitted that the requested amendments to the claims, submitted after the Office Action designated as Final, should be entered, in that the amendment will place all remaining claims in condition for allowance. Further, the requested amendments to the claims simplify the issues for a potential appeal by reducing the number of claims under consideration and clarifying the claimed structure.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are

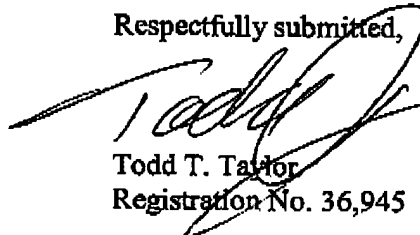
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therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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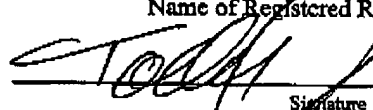
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on: April 17, 2006.

Todd T. Taylor, REG. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



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